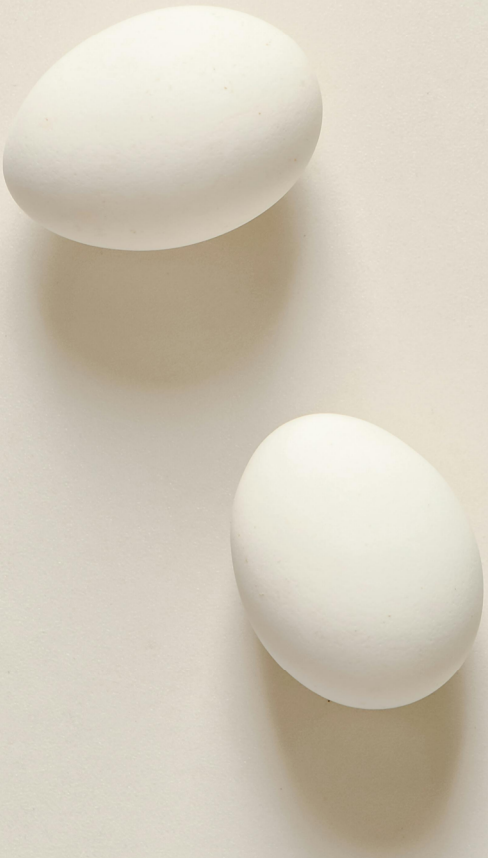
TWO KINDS OF FAITH



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Two Kinds Of Faith

Handbook for Believers 2

Julius I. Ugorji

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Except otherwise stated, all scripture quotation is taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Our Job is not to try explaining everything. Our job is to just welcome our King. You never know what he is going to do. He is his own person. Just walk with him, trust him, and know it is his plans and purposes.

Trust His Love. It is an everlasting Love!

We do not have to know everything or explain everything; we are to just walk with him. As you walk with him, the atmosphere changes. People that were in darkness will see God's light upon your life and they will be attracted to that light.

Our job is not to Limit God. Religion puts God in a box and ties his hands. Sometimes we are so caught up in our tradition, we kick God right out of the church. Let God do what he wants to do. We are not the head; Jesus is the head. Just fasten your seat belt and enjoy the ride. *

Scott Hughes
Washington State, US.

**Excerpt from Manifesting the Light*

Forward

This book is specifically directed at believers. The contents are therefore not aimed at those who are not yet born again, though they too may gain light from studying this book.

All efforts have been made to keep this book as simple and as direct to the point as possible. This is to enable easy reading and understanding.

Now, as I always do, I strongly advise you not just to read, but to meditate on the contents of this book. Read it slowly, repeatedly, and prayerfully. Ensure you understand the principle behind this book and cooperate with the Spirit within it.

More also, I recommend that you read the Bible along with this book, making sure to crosscheck every reference given. In the end, you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Do not forget to share freely with others.

May Heaven bless you.

Julius I. Ugorji
Port Harcourt, Nigeria

CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is *acting* on God's word.

This is the simplest definition of faith that can be given to anyone. The longer form is found in the Bible, in which the Apostle Paul described faith as a tangible substance:

> *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb 11:1*

The word “substance” refers to a tangible thing, which can be seen, felt, touched, tasted, or heard.

While the word “evidence” implies a *proof* or a *token*, which when presented would confirm the existence of an unseen reality.

For example: If a police officer asks for your identity, the best thing to do is present your identity card to him.

The ID card is not your identity itself; it is a proof or token of your identity.

So also is faith: it is a token or proof which you show to demonstrate the reality of God’s word.

IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

A person without faith cannot show any proof that God's word is a reality. And without this proof, such a person cannot claim the promises of God, neither can he act in line with God.

Therefore, as it is written:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb 11:6

Faith is the evidence you present with which you prove that you are saved, healed, and delivered. A person without faith cannot therefore prove his salvation, healing, or deliverance.

Without this proof, your salvation, healing, or deliverance will be denied you.

If a person is walking along the streets with a gun and the police arrests him, they will demand a gun permit from him. That piece of paper called a "gun permit" is evidence which shows he is authorized to bear that arm.

That piece of document itself is not authority, it is proof of the authority which the gun owner has received from the government to bear arms. The *authority* itself is invisible, but the piece of document he presents is the visible evidence of the invisible authority.

Likewise, we cannot see God's word with the physical eyes. The word is Spirit.

"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" Eph 6:17

But faith can be seen with the physical eyes. It can be touched, tasted, felt, and perceived.

"When Jesus saw their faith…" Mar 2:5

"8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." Acts 14:8-10

Faith is the proof that we have received God's word (i.e., God's authority) in us. When we show our faith, we exhibit the proof that the authority and power of God has truly been invested in us. This is the importance of faith.

CHAPTER 2

EFFECTS OF LACK OF FAITH

Without faith, one would find it impossible to please God. And when a man's way displeases God, he loses fellowship with God and becomes estranged from his heavenly father.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb 11:6

Those who demonstrate their faith in God receive to themselves God's favorable attention and love.; but he looks unkindly upon those who have no faith in him.

Without faith, one becomes unpleasant to God. And an unpleasant person attracts God's wrath and condemnation.

"And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith." Deu 32:20

"But he that believeth not is condemned already" John 3:18

Furthermore, where there is no faith, one cannot retain whatever heavenly gift or authority he might have received beforehand.

"But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me." Mat 14:30

For example, a man who cannot produce his gun permit to the police on demand will invariably have his gun confiscated.

Likewise, a person who cannot demonstrate his faith will have his salvation, healing or deliverance confiscated or outrightly revoked.

Faith therefore is not only necessary to receive from God; it is nonetheless required to maintain whatever we have hitherto received from God.

You need faith to receive healing, and you need faith to maintain that healing you have received.

Remember, faith is *"acting on God's Word."*

Another way of expressing it is simply *"Faith is obedience to God."*

When you act in accordance with God's word, your action *is* faith. Therefore, faith is '*action based upon God's Word.'*

EXAMPLES OF FAITH

The Bible records accounts of notable examples of faith.

a) Abel

The first person to manifest faith was Abel.

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Heb 11:4

Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice to God by faith. In other words, what Abel offered, and the manner he offered it, were all based on God's Word.

This implies that Abel had somehow received God's prior instructions on what to sacrifice and how to sacrifice it. But these instructions were either not available to Cain, or he simply overlooked them.

When Abel followed the revealed word of God, he succeeded in presenting to God the acceptable sacrifice. But Cain could not be accepted because his offering was not by faith (i.e. was not according to God's word.)

Cain thought he could figure out on his own what God would accept. He must have put great effort in his work to please God. But because he didn't act according to God's word, all his human efforts were repulsive to God, and he was ultimately rejected.

This is a lesson to all who are presently working hard to please God. You must realize that hard work doesn't please God. Only faith pleases him.

b) Abraham

Another example of faith is Abraham's sacrifice of his Son Isaac.

Now, Abraham being a prophet himself, knew the gospel, namely that God would give the world "to the seed" of Abraham.

"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever." Gen 13:15

Therefore, when he was asked to sacrifice his only Son Isaac, Abraham believed that God was going to provide a lamb to take the place of Isaac his Son. He knew Isaac's sacrifice was a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of the lamb of God.

"And Isaac spoke unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together." Gen 22:7-8

That lamb which Abraham prophesied about, whom God was to provide, was Jesus Christ our savior.

Abraham did not hesitate to sacrifice Isaac, because he trusted that God was able to raise Isaac up again; for Abraham knew and believed that through Isaac the lamb of God was going to come. There was therefore no way that Isaac could remain dead.

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." Heb 11:17-19

The actions of Abraham were therefore rooted deeply in the word of God which God had already spoken from the beginning of time. Abraham was therefore greatly blessed by God because he trusted fully upon God's word and offered up Isaac freely to God.

Take note: Abraham didn't offer up Isaac based upon mere assumptions. Rather he knew God's word to him and acted upon it accordingly. This is what faith entails.

You must therefore remember that the first step to faith is knowing God's word.

EXPRESSION OF UNBELIEF

One unmistakable way through which a person's lack of faith often manifests is through his mouth.

The words we speak go an exceptionally long way to expose the contents of our hearts. Our words come from our hearts, consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, whatsoever is in our hearts will undoubtedly proceed forth out of our mouths.

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Mat 12:34

If a person is faithless, his speech will show it. He will be unable to hide his unbelief. Every time he opens his mouth to speak, his unbelief would flow out of him like a filthy river overflowing its banks.

The reason unbelief easily seeps out through the mouth is because the natural man is under the dominion of unbelief, and consequently is locked in constant conflict with the Spirit of God. Those therefore who are controlled by their carnal nature will voice out those impure thoughts which fills their hearts.

A servant cannot say no to his master. He cannot but say and do whatever his lord commands him. That which his lord commands him to accept, that he will accept.

Likewise, a person who is under the dominion of the flesh cannot but speak according to the flesh. Such a person will see things by the flesh, and speak according to his carnal nature.

But when one is born again, his mindset will change, and his speech will consequently change. He will see and speak as God sees and speaks. His words and actions will thence be in line with the will of God.

CHAPTER 3

THE SOURCE OF FAITH

The supreme source of faith is the hearing of God's word.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

When you give ears to God's word, faith simultaneously rises within your spirit. This simply means that as you give your sincere attention to God's word, your spirit begins to act on the word.

God's word gives direction, instruction, and correction. When you receive this word and begin to obey it, your corresponding actions will be *acts of faith*.

We can now surmise that nobody can have faith who has not first heard the word. The word comes first, and then faith follows it.

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom 10:14

Faith does not stand upon ignorance. You cannot have faith when you do not know and haven't heard God's word. One must first encounter the word of God, and then faith can be supplied to his heart.

For this reason, God has always raised prophets and teachers whose sole duty was to preach his word to the people of the world.

Through the act of preaching God has elected to save those who would believe.

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1Cor 1:21

When one is to be saved, his path would first be directed towards the word of God. When such a one encounters God's word, and believes it, his subsequent actions will be in line with the word he has heard. This will then be accounted to him for righteousness.

Conversely, one who hears the word and does not believe it, will subsequently act contrary to the word he has heard. This person is a disbeliever and cannot be saved.

Jesus gave an example of this principle through the parable of the two sons:

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him." Mat 21:28-32

In the above parable, we see both sons receiving the instruction of their father. The first son responded negatively at first, but after a while decided to do according to his father's instruction. He received Christ's commendation because he acted in line with the father's word. Of the two boys, he is the son who believed.

On the other hand, we see the second son who responded affirmatively to his father's instruction, but never acted accordingly. He did not do the word. In the end he was accounted as the disobedient one. He did not believe.

Both boys heard the word, but their subsequent actions differed significantly.

We therefore see that faith is not a vocal response to God's word, neither is it a positive disposition towards God. Rather, Faith is acting upon God's instructions. The instruction comes first, and the action follows it.

G*ood* people assume they will be accepted by God because of their goodness. They go to church, sing in the choir, and read their bibles. But they never actually do the word. Such people will be shocked to find themselves outside God's kingdom.

WHY WE PREACH THE WORD

The word of God is supreme. His word is eternal and unbreakable. It is God's instrument for salvation to all those who would believe. The word is God's saving instrument.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom 1:16

The act of preaching therefore becomes a particularly important activity in God's household.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1Cor 1:18

Through the act of preaching, God saves those who would believe. For as they hear and act according to that which has been proclaimed, their faith is counted into them for righteousness.

One therefore must hear the Word before he can act on it; for it is impossible to act on what one does not know.

Thus, faith comes through the hearing of God's word.

CHAPTER 4

FAITH BY SIGHT

There are two kinds of faith. Christ Jesus enumerated these two kinds of faith when he appeared to Thomas.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29

Thomas believed, but his faith had come after he had seen the Majesty of the risen Christ with his own eyes.

However, Jesus was not impressed with this kind of faith. The Lord said to him, *"blessed are they who have not seen, and yet believed."*

We therefore can see that there are two kinds of faith really: (a) Faith by sight (b) Faith before sight.

THE THOMAS-KIND OF FAITH

Faith by sight is the Thomas-Kind of Faith. It is the faith that comes only after a person has seen the majesty and terror of God in action. This terror compels such a one to obey the word which God has pronounced.

Such a person becomes obedient, not because he wants to, but because he has seen God's great terror and is now compelled by God's power to obey.

He has seen, and now he has no option but to comply. This is faith by sight. The Thomas type of faith.

Thomas said:

> *"Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20:25*

When Jesus later appeared and showed him what he wanted to see, Thomas had no option but to fall prostrate before his Lord.

Thomas' subsequent faith was based upon sight. He had seen, and so he believed.

Whether Thomas later repented of this defective faith, we might never know. But the lesson we learn is that faith (obedience to God) which is based on sight is not the blessed faith which saves.

EXAMPLES OF FAITH BASED ON SIGHT

There are myriad examples of those who developed faith based on sight. The Bible records examples of such faith; a faith which only arose after the individual had encountered God's judgement.

The Faith of Demons

Demons believe. But the faith they have is the faith which comes by sight, not by the word.

> *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Jam 2:19:*

Demons believe that there is a God. They believe, not because they trust in him, but because they have seen his awesome power and they have known his awesome terror. Therefore they tremble.

"For with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him." Mar 1:27

They obey God, not because they love him, but because they have no choice, and they cannot resist his word. They are compelled by the formidable power of God to obey God.

This type of obedience (faith) which they have towards God is a false obedience. It is obedience based on the things which they have seen and experienced. This is faith based on sight.

Left to themselves, demons would rather act contrary and opposite to God's will. But when they come in direct contact with God's power, they are unable to resist.

It is therefore common to see demons obeying the commands of God. This is not because they believe in truth. But because they are unable to resist the great power of the Lord Jesus.

Countless number of people operate this way. They obey God, not because they love him, but because they are compelled to act in a certain way, afraid of the terror and judgement of God.

If they do what is wrong, and they see no judgement, they do it again. Except they are struck by the lightening of Heaven, they would continue to sin. But when they fall sick or enter trouble, they immediately run to church, fast, and pray.

This type of people makes up substantial number of present-day Christians.

The Faith of the Unraptured

There will come a time when all mankind sees the coming King in his glory, and then they will believe. The Bible tells us that on that day, all eyes shall see him.

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." Rev 1:7

The rebellious world shall see the coming King in all his glory and splendor, and they shall weep bitterly.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Mat 24:30

The people left behind shall mourn, and regret, and be in great anguish of heart because they have seen him whom they hitherto had despised. They would then believe that he is the son of the living God.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Rom 14:11

When they see the Lord, they will be compelled to worship him. But their new-found faith will be based on the dreadful sight before their eyes, and not on God's word. They will weep, not because they are repentant, but because they realize they have a great punishment coming ahead.

Their faith will be faith based on sight.

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." Mar 13:26

Unfortunately, those who are left behind will not be saved by their newfound faith. They will realize how great a blunder they have committed.

This will be the fate of all those who presently reject the gospel. The day will come when they shall see the Lord, and they shall all believe. But that day will be too late, and their faith will not save them.

They will run around, to hide themselves from the terror of God and from his fierce wrath. Yet, they will be unsuccessful in their efforts.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev 6:15-17

You therefore should strive hard not to be among those who are waiting to see the coming terror of God before they would believe. Now is the right time to hear God's word and turn to him in truth.

The Faith of the Rich Man

Another example of *faith based on sight* can be found in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

In that parable, we notice that the rich man dies and goes to hell. When he found himself in hell, then he believed.

"And in hell he lifted up his eyes, cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me…" Luk 16:23-24

Nobody needed to preach to him. No one needed to tell him how miserably wrong he had been in his lifetime. Now he could see! He saw with his own eyes and believed.

The rich man became a believer in hell. He realized that all that had been preached to him in the past about the Most High God were true.

He began to seek for God in hell…,

"And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Luk 16:24

…but it was too late. His plea was rejected. Abraham reminds him of the way he had lived his life on earth, in luxury and comfort, without regard to the truth of God.

"But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Luk 16:25

Abraham also made him understand clearly that he was never going to get out of that place, and no one was going to come to him. God has placed an impassable demarcation between hell and heaven.

"And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." Luk 16:26

Seeing himself in hell, and knowing there was no way out for him, the rich man began to campaign for the conversion of his remaining five brothers.

"Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." Luk 16:27-28

From hell, this rich man wanted to send missionaries to his brothers. He wanted to get them to repent. The rich man had found a new zeal; he was now a soul winning believer in hell.

"And he said…if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent." Luk 16:30

What he should have done on earth, he now was trying to do from the grave; namely to save his brothers.

A great lesson should be learned here: the time to believe is now; and the source of our faith should be the word of God.

The rich man waited until he got to hell before he could believe. His faith was based on the terrible sight and torments he was experiencing. His condition in hell compelled him to cry out for mercy.

If the rich man had died and found himself in a mansion full of gold and earthly pleasures, would he have cried out to God for mercy? I bet not. Therefore we see that his cry was solely because he was being tormented. His cry for mercy was therefore useless.

Our repentance and submission to God must be based on our genuine love for God's righteousness. We must seek God now, with love and sincerity. Not because we are threatened by hell, or because we desire goodly pleasures. Rather, we

must seek God out of the deepest convictions of our hearts, knowing that he is the true and Holy One.

All these examples of "faith" which we have discussed in this chapter are all examples of sight-based faith; a faith that is false and baseless. This is faith based on sensory perceptions and present experiences, not on the word of God.

CHAPTER 5

FAITH BEFORE SIGHT

The second faith which Christ enumerated to Thomas is faith *before* sight.

"Jesus saith unto him, blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29

This is the blessed faith.

This is the faith of the true believer.

This faith is not based on sight, but on God's invisible word.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight:" 2Cor 5:7

This is the faith that saves, heals, delivers, and reveals Christ to our hearts.

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." 1Pet 1:8-9

This faith is the Godkind of faith.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb 11:3

It is a faith which is based on God's word.

When you believe God's word, acting upon it even without seeing any prior signs or wonders, your faith will surely be blessed and rewarded.

"So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." Gal 3:9

This kind of faith has always been the faith that pleases God. It is the faith of the prophets and servants of God. A faith that supersedes the flesh and all its earthly senses.

Such a faith is critical for our relationship with God.

"As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me" Ps 18:44

EXAMPLES OF FAITH BEFORE SIGHT

There are countless examples of people who demonstrated faith before sight. Their faith rested solely on God's word, and never on what they had seen or experienced.

A good example is the harlot at Jericho

a) Rahab The Harlot

When Joshua sent out spies to survey the land of Jericho, they came into the house of a lady whom the Bible identified as a harlot. Her name was Rahab.

The interesting thing about Rahab was that she acted first by hiding the spies. She did not bargain with the spies or

wait to see what they could offer her. She simply took the men and hid them.

"And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I knew not whence they were:" Josh 2:4

A faithless person would have bargained with the spies before helping them. But she helped them first, and then later pleaded with them to save her life.

This was faith before sight.

Rahab's actions were based on the news she had heard of how the God of the Hebrews was manifesting his power through the Israelites.

"And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land…For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you..." Josh 2:9-10

She believed this news and acted upon it swiftly. Her actions were accounted unto her for faith.

"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." Heb 11:31

Faith therefore entails a prompt response towards God's word, without hesitation and negotiations.

More also, one must know the God in whom we are to trust. You must know that he is the true God, and not an imaginary figure.

Rahab heard about the God of Israel and believed that he was the true God. This gave her the confidence to act in line with his word.

"For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt…for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath." Josh 2:10-11

If you do not know the living God, that he is the true God, you will find it impossible to trust in him. Therefore, to have faith in God, you must first know God.

"For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb 11:6

Rahab heard of the living God, and believed that he is the true God. She subsequently acted in his favor by hiding the two Israelite spies. By this, she saved herself and her entire household.

b) The Roman Centurion

The faith of the Roman centurion is one that should be a splendid example to us.

This was a Roman military officer in charge of a troop of about a Hundred or more soldiers. He was a man well accustomed to military discipline. He knew and understood how authority works, and the power behind an officer's command.

It so happened however, that one of his servants, who was very dear to him, fell sick and was near death. Having heard about Jesus Christ, the centurion sent Jewish Elders to persuade Jesus to heal his dying servant.

Jesus agreed and set off with the Elders towards the house of the centurion. But when the centurion, being well

conversant with Jewish customs and traditions, heard that Jesus was coming to his house, he promptly sent friends to meet Jesus on the way. They were to deliver a message to Jesus:

"Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof… but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed." Luk 7:6-7

The message continued,

"For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." Luk 7:8

The centurion was essentially saying to Jesus, "I know you are a commander, just like me. Your word alone is enough. You don't need to walk all the way here to perform this task!"

The Bible tells us that when Jesus heard this message, he marveled greatly.

"When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." Luk 7:9

A faithless person would have wanted to see how Jesus would strike his hand on the sick person, shout, run around and do all sorts of gymnastics, just as Naaman had thought.

"But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper." 2Kin 5:11

The Roman centurion had a different kind of faith, one which was not based on sight. He simply trusted that Jesus could issue a command, and this command would be executed by the invisible army of heaven. Consequently, the Lord Jesus commended the faith of the centurion, and granted him the miracle he sought.

Let your faith therefore be based on God's word, and not on your human sight. Trust in the efficacy of the word of God, and not on the magnitude of your experiences. Only when you trust in God's word will you enjoy the benefit of his power.

CHAPTER 6

CORRESPONDING ACTION

We must now point out that faith without corresponding actions (works), is dead and useless.

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." Jam 2:17

Simply put: without corresponding action, faith is dead.

A particularly good example can be illustrated as follows:

Let us imagine that a man is about to go out to work. But as he steps out of his door, he notices the sky was dark and threatening. He quickly withdraws into his room, knells down and prays: 'Oh Lord, stop this rain. Let it not rain on me. Send your wind to blow the clouds away, Amen.'

After praying, what was he supposed to do next? He was supposed to receive God's response, and act on it.

But he does not do this.

Rather, he gets up from his knees, proceeds to pull out an umbrella from under the bed, and walks out the door with the umbrella.

Now, his action – taking an umbrella – is not corresponding with his prayer. He has demanded that the rain not fall. Why then would he need an umbrella?

That umbrella which he took is evidence of his unbelief. Either he does not trust that God would do as he had requested; or he does not believe that his request was appropriate in the first place. His actions therefore failed to correspond to his words. He should not have prayed at all if he knew he wasn't going to believe God thereafter.

Faith must be demonstrated by a corresponding action. Before you call upon God, you must be ready and willing to act upon his word, knowing that his word cannot fail.

JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE

A person who claims he has faith must show his faith through a corresponding action. Joseph is a good example.

Joseph believed that God would bring the children of Israel out of the Land of Egypt. He believed this because he knew this was what God himself had promised.

How did Joseph show his faith?

"And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence." Gen 50:25

Joseph demonstrated his faith by issuing a command to God's people not to bury his body in Egypt, but to take his bones with them whenever they were leaving Egypt. This was faith with corresponding action.

One cannot claim “Christ is my Lord” while conveniently disobeying Christ at any given opportunity. This type of “Christianity” is a lie.

If Jesus Christ were your Lord, your actions would correspond to such a claim. Moreover, as a Christian, your life should absolutely mirror his own.

Do not let your faith be buried under the Egyptian desert of unbelief.

REASONS FOR LACK OF CORRESPONDING ACTION

There are three major reasons why people fail to act in line with their professed faith. The first reason is the idea that God is so difficult to persuade; the second reason is the feeling of unworthiness and impropriety; the third reason is plain ignorance.

Misconceptions of A Difficult God

Countless number of Christians struggle with the issue of faith because they have this notion that it is difficult to persuade God; and that to get a little favor from God, one must sacrifice way too much and beg for a long time.

This notion compels many to look for alternatives, thereby bypassing God’s word and short-circuiting their own faith in the process.

God is a loving God, and Jesus assures us that God desires and is pleased to give us the kingdom.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luk 12:32

More also, we must understand that God is a Holy God. And he is a good father. He certainly would not give us stones instead of bread. And he wouldn't allow us to demand for things that are quite deadly to us in the long run.

"Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Mat 7:9-11

Understand also, that a man's way is always right in his own sight. And the desires of man are very often polluted by the filthiness of his heart.

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." Prov 21:2

What you are asking for might be right in your sight, but God looks at the heart. If your heart isn't right, he wouldn't approve of your request. This is not him being difficult. It is just him being a good Father.

Therefore, we must always ask for those things which are consistent with his righteousness, according as his spirit directs us.

If we pray, being led by the Holy Spirit, we will unfailingly seek for those things which please God, and he would grant them unto us.

Unfortunately, mankind has left God's ways and desires, and they pursue their own desires. They want God to fulfil their desires, yet they have no regard to what God desires. This is the cause of the false perception that God is difficult to persuade. And this perception prevents many from trusting God's word.

When we pray, we must have the basic assurance that we have asked of God that which he is pleased to grant. This assurance would propel us to act in accordance with his word.

But where such an assurance is missing, though we pray, we would keep wondering if we had asked for the right thing or not.

Therefore, faith demands that we know and understand the will of God in every matter. Without this understanding of God's will, we would always suffer from uncertainty.

Feelings of Unworthiness and Impropriety

In addition to this, a vast number of Christians struggle with a sense of unworthiness. Deep within their hearts, they do not see themselves as qualified to ask anything from God. They feel unworthy to be in fellowship with God.

"And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." Luk 15:19

The prodigal son suffered from such a feeling of utter worthlessness and impurity. In his own mind, he was no longer worthy to be called a son of his father. Hence, he chose to be made a servant.

That same feeling of unworthiness has trapped sinners in the prison of rejection and isolated them from God. They remain far and aloof from the Holy things of Christ, thereby reinforcing that idea that they are unworthy to approach God.

In such a state of self-debasement, one would find it naturally impossible to believe and act on God's Word.

"For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me." Ps 38:4

The consciousness and loathing of past sins is one of the hallmarks of a repentant soul. But if this consciousness is taken too far, it can become a great hindrance to faith.

"Our record of sins overwhelms me, but you forgive our acts of rebellion." Ps 65:3 (NET)

While we must come to God in repentance, we must not let guilt destroy our confidence in him. We are to let his word cleanse us and makes us qualified for his glory, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

No man can purify himself enough to have fellowship with God…

"If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me." Job 9:30-31

Instead, we are made pure as we receive and trust God's word. We are washed by the word of God.

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3

Hence, do not trust in your own righteousness or worthiness. Trust in the righteousness of Christ which he has freely ascribed to all who would believe on him.

Cast off your feelings of unworthiness, and trust in the finished works of Christ. Then you can boldly believe in God's word and act on it.

Ignorance

The third element that prevents people from taking a corresponding action to their faith is ignorance.

Many a Christian are ignorant of God's word, and therefore do not know exactly what they are to do.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:" Hos 4:6

Ignorance of God's word leads to all kinds of superstitions and vanities. When a person is not aware of God's word, he would be forced to fill in the blanks with his own ideas and conjectures. And that is a fatal recipe for disaster.

God requires that we diligently study his word so that we might be approved of him, and capable of spiritual activities.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2Tim 2:15

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Josh 1:8

One therefore has the utmost responsibility to seek God's word. We must search the scriptures, meditate on them, and repeat them until the light of it fills our hearts.

When the word enters our hearts, we receive light to know which steps to take and which way to go.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Ps 119:130

Ignorance therefore is not acceptable to God, neither can it be an excuse. Rather, ignorance itself is a sin.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?" Mar 12:24

"Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God." Jer 5:4

Faith cannot stand upon the foundation of ignorance. Faith stands upon the word of God. Therefore, knowledge of God's word is essential in the subject of faith.

CHAPTER 7

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT ARE ONE

The word of God and the Spirit of God are one.

"I and my Father are one." John 10:30

God is Spirit, and Christ is his Word made flesh. Yet, they are One and inseparable.

They function as one. For where the word is, there the Spirit is. And where the Spirit is, there the word is as well.

The Spirit reveals the word to our hearts and performs the word in our lives. Without the Spirit, the word cannot go forth. And without the word, the Spirit will not go forth.

Faith therefore is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" Eph 2:8

This means that no man can have faith, except it is given to him by the Holy Spirit.

"A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." John 3:27

This fact therefore precludes all boastings and pride. It invites us to be humble and thankful to God, for we are saved through the working of his Spirit and word.

"The salvation of the righteous is of the LORD:" Ps 37:39

Our faith then is not a product of our efforts. Rather, it is the product of God's *Word* and *Spirit* acting in unison to bring us into light.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

When the word is released, the Spirit of God goes forth to produce the result. When the word is withheld, the Spirit is likewise withheld.

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

This is particularly important for all believers to understand: You must be filled with the Holy Spirit of God, if you must act upon God's word.

A person who wants to act upon God's word, and yet isn't filled with the Holy Spirit, will literally be undertaking an impossible task.

No man can act on God's Word who hasn't been filled with the Holy Spirit. God's Word is spirit. Flesh cannot act on it or obey it. Only the Holy Spirit can act upon the Word of God. Thus we say, if you must act on God's Word, the Holy Spirit must dwell in you richly.

The Spirit will not come to you if you do not know the Word; neither will the Word be real to you if you do not have the Holy Spirit. For the Word and the Spirit are one.

The Spirit and the Word must therefore be one in you:

"My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth…saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever." Isa 59:21

When the Word and the Spirit are one in you, then the power and glory of God would unfailingly make itself manifest in you.

THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE

Like we have mentioned above, God manifests his power through you when his Word and Spirit are one in you.

Unfortunately, most Christians are only interested in the Spirit, but not in the Word. Others only want the Word, but not the Spirit. This is the most common mistake made by Christians today. They try to split the Spirit from the Word.

There are Churches and assemblies that only seek after signs and wonders, great miracles, and performances of the spirit.

"A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. And he left them, and departed." Mat 16:4

They have little regard for the preaching of the word, but rather spend all their time seeking after signs and wonders, irrespective of its source.

"Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor." 1Sam 28:7

Like King Saul, such miracle-seeking Churches and assemblies often quickly fall into demonic deceptions and falsehoods without even knowing it. They lose God's presence and are left with deceptions and demonic manipulations.

When King Saul rejected God's Word and tried to enquire after the Spirit, he ended up in deception and condemnation. His attempt to ignore the word and retain the spirit failed woefully.

"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." 1Sam 16:14

On the other hand, there are other Churches and assemblies that lay emphasis on the preaching of the Word alone, and would have nothing to do with the demonstrations of the Spirit. They show deep distrust and displeasure at any unscripted move of the Holy Spirit in their meetings. They do not allow for miracles, healings, speaking in tongues, or any such gifts of the Spirit. Their only focus is on doctrine and dogma.

This kind of congregation often end up being an empty, stiff, powerless, and notoriously proud religious organization with nothing but mere superstitions and traditions of men at its core.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away…Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2Tim 3:5,7

God wants his Word and his Spirit to be One in us. The Spirit must glorify the Word, and the Word must manifest the Spirit. This is the way to go.

When the word and the Spirit are one in you, God's power would be manifest in your life unfailingly.

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost..." 1Ths 1:5

The word and the Spirit must always be one in you if the power of Christ is to be made manifest in your life.

"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." 1Cor 4:20

Likewise, your confession and your action must be united. When the word of God comes to you, your spirit must act on it accordingly, just as your lips declares it boldly. When you act upon God's word with all your heart, and confess it with your mouth, the power of God will unfailingly be manifest to you.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom 10:10

CHAPTER 8

THE DECISION TO BELIEVE

A popular misconception we often encounter in Christianity is the notion that anyone can believe if only they chose to. Yet, when we look deeply into the Holy Scriptures, we discover that this is not so.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44

Believing is not an ability that is domiciled in man, for all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. If a man will believe, the ability must be imparted into him by God. Without this ability, he will be unable to believe no matter how hard he tries.

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luk 13:24

Some will make heroic efforts to believe, but will be unable. They will seek to enter the kingdom of God, but will not be able. Only those who have received the precious gift of faith will be able to enter God's light.

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Rom 5:17

Salvation is therefore by predestination. This means that for one to have faith, God must have predestined him.

PREDESTINATION

Predestination is God's sovereign choice of who should believe and be saved.

"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Rom 8:30

This is done according to his own will and for his own pleasure.

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," Eph 1:5

More also, it is evident that God is his own counselor, and our predestination is entirely his choice. In this sense, we can understand that no man can "decide to be saved." Such a decision is made for us by God even before we were born.

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:" Eph 1:11

Hence, faith is a gift of God. It is not a decision or an achievement of man. It is a gift. And as such, only those whom God has predestined for it can have it.

Therefore, the capacity to believe does not exist in everyone. In fact, most people will be unable to believe, simply because they are blinded by God and withheld from being able to do so.

“Therefore they could not believe, because…He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart;” John 12:39-40

Those who can believe have received the gift of faith, solely because God chose them for such a purpose.

This point was clearly driven home by Christ Jesus when his disciples questioned his habit of speaking in parables to the multitude:

"He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Mat 13:11

His answer makes it abundantly clear that the ability of an individual to hear and believe the gospel, is predetermined by God, even before such a one was born.

In other words, those to whom faith is given will believe; but those to whom faith is not given will never believe.

THE CASE OF PHARAOH

There are those to whom faith is neither permitted nor granted. Such ones will never be able to believe, even if they tried. One such person, as recorded in the scriptures, was King Pharaoh.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go." Exo 4:21

God himself had raised Pharaoh up and made him incapable of believing the message of Moses. So that, when Moses came preaching deliverance to the people of Israel in the name of the Lord, Pharaoh just could not believe the word of God.

Despite all the signs and wonders which Moses performed in the very presence of Pharaoh, the King and his servants could not believe.

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy. For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." Rom 9:16-18:

There are those today who are in the exact same condition as was King Pharao: they are barred from believing. God has hardened their hearts, least they should believe.

It does not matter how many signs and wonders we perform before their very eyes; they will never be able to believe. Such people are raised to be condemned. Through them, God's great might and power will be demonstrated.

But for those of us who believe, it must be recognized that the ability to believe was vested in us by God, even before the foundation of the world. We were predestined for his salvation.

THE DECISION

Often, we hear preachers and evangelists giving an open invitation to sinners to *"make a decision"* for Christ. This is all good.

Nevertheless, we must bear in mind that we are not saved because we "made a decision" to come to Christ. Rather, we

were saved because God made the decision to bring us to Christ.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" Eph 2:1

Before we believed, we were dead in sin and trespasses. We were incapable of making any decisions concerning the kingdom of God. That decision rests entirely with God.

Furthermore, if salvation was subject to man's decision, then man would have the right to boast of his ability to save himself. But God had placed the totality of our salvation in his own hands, and given it to whomever he had predestined, so that now there can be no fleshly boastings.

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." 2Cor 10:17-18

THE DEPENDABLE ONE

We must then consider it better that the totality of our salvation rested in God's hands, than that we should have had any say in it. For if our salvation were subject to our decision, we would never be saved.

Man cannot be trusted to make any decision for his own salvation. This decision, therefore, entirely rests with God.

Likewise, faith is not left up to man. The faith by which we were saved, healed, delivered, and blessed, is operated by God through the working of his Holy Spirit that dwells in us.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil 2:13

I am therefore happy that my salvation was not left up to me to decide. I could never have decided to be saved. The enemy, that old serpent the devil, would surely have never let me get around to making such an important decision. But glory be to God who decided for me, to save me and in due time draw me unto himself through Christ Jesus.

Consequently, the faith which I now have is not subject to my fleshly abilities. Rather, my faith is operated by the Holy Spirit whom God has given to me.

"The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God..." Gal 2:20

God is the dependable one, and he has proven himself right in that he placed the entire process of my salvation firmly under his own power. For only by doing so could my salvation be ensured and achieved.

BE HUMBLE AND THANKFUL

No one, therefore, should boast in himself concerning his salvation or anything wherewith God has favored him. We who believe must be eternally grateful to God for giving us this ability to believe and be saved.

When we realize that we were not saved by our own decision, we will be humble and grateful to God for his good favor.

Likewise, when we realize that our faith is not actually ours but his, we will be confident and unashamed to entrust ourselves into his able care.

CHAPTER 9

FAITH OVER SCIENCE

The modern world, in which we live, has witnessed great leaps in science, especially in the field of medicine and health care. A handful of diseases which proved to be fatal in days past, have now become treatable.

Through surgery, doctors can bring relief to hurting patients. And overall, we can categorically say that humanity is fortunate to have these great discoveries and leaps in science.

Truly, without the advancements made in medical science, there would have been untold misery and pain; and ailments that are now easily treated would have led to avoidable torment, disability, and even death.

We are therefore very appreciative of the efforts of scientists and doctors, through whom God has made available to the masses the knowledge of how to fight a few of the diseases that hitherto wreaked havoc on the common populace.

However, are we to say that there is no more need for faith because science has improved? Absolutely not.

Nevertheless, one might be tempted to ask, what is the need of faith when we could cure diseases today through medical science?

GREAT LEAPS

Though we cannot deny that there have been great leaps in science, we must also realize that there has been an even greater leap in diseases and their devastating effects.

When we examine the records, we discover that there exists today such awful diseases and afflictions which never existed in the past. Examples of these new diseases include HIV, EBOLA, COVID-19.

These, and such like horrible diseases, have defied all available medical solutions. Thus, countless sick people are left suffering in their withering grip.

Moreover, there still exist, even today, many ancient maladies and ailments which defied and still defies all medical understanding or intervention.

Additionally, not all ailments have a scientific or physical foundation to them. Many illnesses that trouble people have no scientific or physical causes. These types of ailments will never be solved by science or any human intervention.

Through the Holy scriptures, we understand that the root causes of diseases and sicknesses are demons and spirits of infirmities. These are the ultimate culprits in the destruction of the human body.

Therefore, if there are demons, there will always be ailments that defy all scientific knowledge. And for this reason, faith will constantly and continuously be required to heal and deliver those who suffer under such circumstances.

"And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." Mat 9:33

THE SUPERSEDING SOLUTION

The great leaps which diseases have made through the human population, has placed a crushing burden on the medical community, one which science alone has never been able to bear.

Today, great hospitals are overcrowded, doctors over stretched, and emergency rooms have become deathtraps.

In all cities of the world, morgues are constantly filled with the corpses of those who have perished from diseases and sicknesses of all types.

In the face of these things, we can see that though science may have made great leaps, yet it is still unable to stop the havoc which diseases are wrecking on the human population.

"Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured." Jer 46:11

There is need, therefore, for something greater than science; a solution that supersedes medicine.

That superseding solution is the Word of God.

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings…For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Prov 4:20,22

Only through faith in God's word can we bring about the complete healing, deliverance, and salvation of humankind.

"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." Ps 107:20

God's word is the *super-drug* which no disease or demon can resist. When the Word is applied, it destroys every stronghold of demons; and it sets free all those who are tormented by unclean spirits.

"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:" Mat 8:16

IT DEPENDS ON YOUR FAITH

Jesus used the Word of God to very profound effect, provided those who came to him believed. But whenever they disbelieved, it became impossible for him to help them.

"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Mat 13:58

It is therefore clear that faith is an indispensable ingredient in the working of this *super-drug,* the Word of God.

Without faith, God's Word becomes ineffectual towards the faithless one.

Therefore, the individual who seeks to be healed, saved, or delivered has a responsibility, namely, to have faith in God. He is to pay attention to God's word, hear it repeatedly and receive it to heart. The entrance of God's word into his heart will bring him that spark of faith.

Jesus often said to those who got healed, "*your faith has made you whole.*"

"And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Luk 17:19

If faith made them whole back then, it is no stretch of the imagination to realize that faith will make us whole today.

Faith in the word of God is the ultimate answer to the present chorus of sicknesses and diseases ravaging the world today.

The faith we speak of is not the faith that comes by sight, which, as we have explained, is a false kind of faith. But the faith that stands upon the firm foundation of God's word. This *word-based* faith is the true faith that heals, saves, and delivers.

The Lord Jesus summarized it perfectly when he said,

"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mar 9:23

Therefore, to stem the surge of diseases, and reverse the tide of affliction within the human populace, faith is absolutely required.

Faith therefore supersedes science.

CHAPTER 10

HEAVEN BY FAITH

Heaven is not a limited location, like Abuja or London. It is not a location that requires human effort to reach. If heaven were a limited location, man would need to exert a degree of human effort to get there.

A *limited location* is a location that can only exist in one specific geographical description. A place that can be plotted on a map and pinpointed by specific geographical coordinates. Examples are the earth, the moon, the stars, the planets, cities of this world.

All these locations are limited by space and time. They can only exist at one specific spot at any given time, and no more. As such, anyone who wishes to get to any of these locations can do so if the person has the means to transport himself there.

If heaven were bound by space and time, it would have been possible for man to plot his way there. Secondly, if heaven were a limited location, restricted by space and time, then it would not be the eternal dwelling place of God.

The cities of men are limited by space and time, but heaven is not. Rather, heaven is an eternal realm, unlimited by space and time.

Heaven is that realm where God's word reigns, unopposed. It is the absolute domain of God's word, where the Word rules absolutely, and is manifestly established as supreme.

In other words, we can define heaven as that realm where nothing else, but God's word, exists.

"Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Ps 119:89

Heaven was created by God's word. It is that realm where the Word reigns unchallenged. Every creature in heaven bows to the Word, and all activities are carried out solely by God's word.

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Rev 19:13-14

Likewise, when Christ returns to the earth, heaven will come with him and be established here on earth through the dominance of God's word.

Heaven therefore is not a limited location, as one of the cities of men. Rather, heaven is that living and active realm in which God's word reigns supreme.

As such, it becomes clear that heaven exists by faith. It is a city of faith. A city founded and built by and upon God's Word.

THY KINGDOM COME

Religious Christians are hoping to "go to heaven." But they are not interested in heaven coming into them.

You do not need to "go" to heaven only. Heaven needs to come to you as well. If heaven does not come to you now, you can

never find your way to heaven hereafter. For as we have seen, heaven is not a limited location.

Heaven can be established in you, if you let the word of God dominate you.

Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray, asking that the kingdom might come to us.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."
Mat 6:10

One might then ask; how do we bring heaven into us?

The answer is simple: if we have known what heaven is, then we can establish it in us.

Heaven is that realm where God's word dominates, unchallenged. Thus, if we let the word dominate our lives unchallenged, we bring in the kingdom of God into us.

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." Luk 18:17

Receiving the kingdom of God as a little child simply means letting the word of God dominate us unchallenged.

A little child is at the helpless mercy of its parents. It can neither speak for itself nor fend for itself. It is incapable of defending itself, but rests entirely on the abilities of the parents. The word of its parent dominates the life of the child, unchallenged.

In like fashion, we are to rest absolutely upon the abilities of God's Word. God's word alone should determine what happens with us, not our own abilities.

When we live and rest entirely upon the abilities of God's Word, we become a piece of heaven here on earth. Heaven comes to us as the word dominates our being.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev 3:20

Therefore, when the word of God comes into you and dominates you, you thereby become a piece of heaven right here on earth.

READY IN FAITH

When we speak of being ready, we speak of our faith in God. Acting on God's word is the way to be ready for the return of the master.

Readiness is not idleness or inactivity. Imagine a servant who gets dressed, sits by, folds his hands, and stares out the window, expecting the return of his master. He neglects to wash the dishes, sweep the floor, or mow the lawns. All he does is sit idle, waiting for the return of his master.

After so many days of such idleness, what would be the condition of that estate? It would obviously be swallowed up by filth! And what would be the response of his Master? Of course, his master would certainly throw him out!

A wise servant prepares for his master's return by doing the will of his Lord, constantly, daily, and perfectly. He keeps himself busy doing the master's commandments, no matter how long the master delays. When his master finally arrives, the wise servant would receive great praise and reward.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Mat 24:45-46

Acting on God's word (doing the will of the master) is faith.

Faith, therefore, is not something we exercise only when we have a trouble or a sickness. Faith should be our daily life. We should live by faith, doing God's Word. By so doing, we make ourselves fit and ready for the master's return.

We can thus conclude that faith makes us ready for the Master.

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luk 18:8

CHAPTER 11

FAITH ON BEHALF OF THE FAITHLESS

An unbeliever (one who is faithless and acts contrary to God's word) cannot receive God's approval. Such a person will find it almost impossible to receive anything from God.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."
Jam 1:6-7

A faithless man should never expect to receive anything from God.

The question then arises: how can unbelievers receive God's divine interventions?

There are unbelievers who are sick, afflicted, tormented by demons, and lost in sin. How can they receive their healing, deliverance, and salvation, seeing they have no faith in God, *ab initio*?

The answer is simple: They are to receive God's graces from a believer.

An unbeliever, to receive anything from heaven, must seek out the help of a believer. Through the ministry of a believer, an unbeliever can come into God's graces and receive what he desires.

Only a believer can receive directly from heaven. He does not hold on greedily to what he has received; he passes it on to the unbeliever who comes to him seeking God's mercy and grace.

The Lord Jesus thus instructed the believer:

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." Mat 10:8

As believers, we receive from heaven, freely. We are then commanded to pass on what we have received, freely. This we do.

It is therefore the responsibility of the unbeliever to seek out a believer in order to receive from him those heavenly graces he desperately desires.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church;" Jam 5:14

WHAT I HAVE

When the Apostles Peter and John met the lame man, they put this principle into practice. Peter said to the man:

"Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Acts 3:6

What the man had been desiring from God was well out of his personal reach. He could never on his own get his healing from heaven. He needed to have contact with a believer.

Enter Peter: The Apostle Peter was in possession of the miracle which that man had been seeking all his life. Therefore, when Peter met the lame man, Peter transmitted the miracle over to the lame man without much ado, in as much as the lame man paid attention to the Apostles.

Peter said to him, "what I have, I give you…"

Similarly, there are sick people who right now are crying and praying to God for a miracle. Unfortunately, they may never, on their own, receive the miracle they desire; Not because God is wicked, but because of the limitations imposed upon them by their own unbelief.

What such people need is to have a divine encounter with a believer.

HELP MY UNBELIEF

When the father of an epileptic boy met Jesus, he doubtfully desired Jesus to help them, "*if he could*."

"If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us." Mar 9:22

Jesus returned the ball back into the man's court. He said to the man:

"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mar 9:23:

In other words, Jesus made it clear to the man that what stood between the man and his desired miracle was his faith. If the man could believe, he could have managed the matter himself!

Unfortunately, the man had serious challenges with his faith. He could not trust himself to believe. He knew within himself

that his own faith was defective. He therefore pleaded with Jesus to handle the case.

"And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mar 9:24

When Jesus saw the commotion which the case was beginning to generate, and how that the crowd was beginning to gather around them, he immediately rebuked the demon and healed the boy.

An Important lesson we must learn here is this: if we had faith, we could receive from heaven directly. We would not need a human intermediary.

But when one's faith is deformed or defective, that one would need the intervention of a believer.

Christ intervened on behalf of that man, and healed the boy. Likewise, today, believers have the same responsibility, to intervene on behalf of the unbelievers for their salvation, healing, and deliverance.

CHAPTER 12

THE SPOKEN WORD

Have you ever wondered how Adam was supposed to *"dress and keep the garden"* of Eden, as God had commanded him?

When God made the man, we learn that he put the man "into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Gen 2:15

It is very reasonable and justifiable then to ask, how was this job to be done seeing there were no tools or machineries available at that time?

There were no cutlasses, lawn mowers, fuel, or any available technology whatsoever. How was Adam then supposed to dress that garden and keep it?

Yet, assuming such tools were available at that time, would it have been possible for one man alone and his wife to keep the entire garden of Eden and dress it?

If Adam were to exert human effort in his designated assignment of dressing the garden, would he not have had to struggle as a slave and suffer beyond measure?

Thankfully, God never intended Adam to exert any physical effort in the work of dressing the garden. Rather, man was expected to use *the spoken word of faith.*

THE WORD OF FAITH

God intended that man should be able to effect whatever changes he wished, just by the mere use of the spoken word.

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Mat 17:20

If Adam wanted something to be moved, all he needed to do was to speak to it, and it would move. Or if he wanted a tree to be planted elsewhere, all Adam needed to do was to speak the word, and the tree would plant itself elsewhere.

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." Luk 17:6

This was the original way God designed man to operate. Adam's word was meant to be creative and effective for every situation.

This '*word of faith*' – the ability to make changes by the spoken word – was man's original ability by which he was to exercise dominion over the created world.

ADAM HAD IT

Adam had the *word of faith* in him. He could speak a word and that word would be done.

This ability was in full display during the naming of the animals which God had created.

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: " Gen 2:19

The Lord brought his latest creations – the Animals he had just made – to Adam, so that Adam could name them. God himself wanted to see what Adam would name the Animals. The Lord certainly knew that Adam had in him the ability to effect changes by his spoken word.

The Bible tells us that Adam's word was perfectly effective over the animal kingdom so much that whatsoever he called each animal, that was what they became.

"…And whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." Gen 2:19

The word of faith in Adam operated perfectly, and he was able to designate to each animal their individual traits simply by the names he called them.

In like fashion, Adam was to dress the garden and keep it, through the power of his *spoken word*.

THE SPOKEN WORD

Faith in the heart is expressed through the spoken word from our lips.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom 10:10

Faith therefore does not lie dormant. It is released through the words of our lips.

Wherever faith is present, the words of the individual will certainly express it. But if faith is absent, the words of the individual will likewise expose his lack of faith.

Our God is a God whose spoken word created the universe and all that are in it. Through his word, he made the worlds out of nothing. He is the *faith* God.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb 11:3

Believers are likewise empowered to administer authority over the physical world through the spoken word of faith.

The Lord Jesus clearly expressed this point in Luke 17:6

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." Luk 17:6

The Lord is teaching that we could manifest God's authority in us using the spoken word. This ability is available in all believers, if they keep away from doubt and unbelief.

Thus, it becomes clear that the ability by which Adam dressed the garden and kept it, is available to all believers as well.

You therefore can speak, and have it come into being, if only you would keep all doubts away from your heart.

GENUINE WORDS OF FAITH

Unfortunately, religious Christians have developed the deceptive habit of saying "positive words," supposing them to be words of faith.

Often, we hear people being instructed to repeat all sorts of self-affirming words, and words of positivity. The notion is that these words somehow have mystical advantages or benefits which they bestow on the speaker.

Even in churches, you find entire congregations being admonished to say positive words. They mistake these positive words for words of faith.

They are mostly wrong and deluded.

Positive words are not always words of faith. A man's heart is capable of thoroughly deceiving him, such that he may be under the delusion that he is speaking words of faith, while all he is really doing is soothing his own foolish heart.

Genuine words of faith only come from the Spirit of God, and never from our own imagination or assumptions.

No man can speak the word of faith by his own efforts, without the authority of the Holy Spirit within.

"No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."
1Cor 12:3

Without the Holy Spirit, there can be no word of faith. In fact, a person who does not have the Holy Spirit of God can never speak anything right, no matter how positive it may sound.

Without the Holy Spirit, no word out of a man's mouth can be right with God.

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Mat 12:34

One cannot be a child of Satan and yet speak words of faith. Such is not possible. Yet, this is the delusion that religious people suffer in various centers of worship.

How can people who are neck-deep in sin, whose hearts are void of God's truth, rise, and speak faith? Though they may bless themselves a million times, yet their thoughts are mere vanity.

"The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity."
Ps 94:11

Only through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can one's words be of faith.

CHAPTER 13

OFFSPRING OF THE WORD

In Genesis chapter one, we read the following statement about Adam and Eve:

> *"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Gen 1:28*

The question can then be asked: How was Adam supposed to reproduce and replenish the earth before the fall, seeing that he had no carnal knowledge yet? Was God merely blessing him in vain?

Most Bible scholars have erroneously posited that it was necessary for Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit so that they could have the carnal knowledge necessary for making babies. These reckless teachers have gone so far as to say that without eating the forbidden fruit, man would never have been able to procreate and thus would have remained alone forever.

But such an answer is blasphemous at its core. It indirectly accuses God of hypocrisy, implying that God had set Adam up to fall.

But God is not a hypocrite. None of his word is a lie. Adam and Eve were truly supposed to reproduce and replenish the earth without eating of that evil fruit.

But how?

THE FIRST BIRTH

In answering this question, we must remember that Adam gave birth to Eve, so to speak. For Eve was inside Adam, and God took her out of him. God was therefore a midwife to Adam, helping him produce the next human, Eve.

We can therefore refer to God as 'the first midwife, ever.' And Adam can as well be regarded as 'the first mother, ever.'

So, yes, Adam gave *birth* to Eve, without pain, without carnal knowledge, and without human effort. Eve's coming was by Faith, through the operation of God.

If it were possible for Eve to be produced out of Adam, it would have likewise been possible for Eve to reproduce and fill the earth just by the operation of God's word.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTIONS

Eve would have perfectly reproduced children without carnal knowledge, and without sin, just like Mary the mother of Jesus Christ.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Mat 1:18

The way Christ was born - through an immaculate conception - was exactly the original way through which Adam would have populated the world by Eve.

Adam's word would have been the seed by which Eve would have conceived effortlessly and bear children without fleshly lust or struggles. This process would have been painless, sinless, and divine. All Adam's children would have been perfect beings, sinless, and divine. There would have been no death.

ADAM LOST IT

Unfortunately, when Adam sinned against God and fell, all his divine abilities were stripped from him, and he was left with nothing but flesh and blood. Thereafter, everything he had to accomplish had to be accomplished through his flesh, by exertion, and in sin.

They disobeyed God and consequently lost all the wonderful abilities which God had deposited in them. They had to resort to human efforts in everything they were to do, including in childbirth. Man resorted to his carnal knowledge and fleshly abilities in the process of procreation.

The sorrow now associated with childbirth is a phenomenon that only came into the human family after the fall of man. It was not part of God's original plan.

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Gen 3:16

Eve's reproductive process and abilities were severely altered to the state we currently see it now.

RESTORED IN CHRIST

Seeing that the first Adam had lost his divine abilities, God sent Jesus Christ, the last Adam, into the world, being the seed of the woman, to restore and operate those abilities which the first Adam had lost.

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." 1Cor 15:45

Christ is referred to as "The Last Adam." And what the first Adam could not do, because of sin, the last Adam has come and has done it because of righteousness.

The Lord Jesus, in his earthly walk, showed us what man was originally meant to be like. He used his word to effect changes, subdue nature, heal sicknesses, cast out demons, raise the dead, and most importantly bring countless sons to glory.

Today, Christ reproduces himself, not by carnal exertion, but by his word. We are born into God's kingdom by the Word of God. We are products of the word of Christ.

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." Jam 1:18

What Adam failed to do; Christ Jesus succeeded in doing. A person who is born into God's kingdom today is not born by carnal knowledge nor by human effort, as Adam had to do; but he is born by the spirit and by the word!

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1Pet 1:23

That was the original way Adam would have populated the world and replenished the earth for God's glory. He failed.

Christ succeeded. And now, we are children of God, not through Adam, but through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Gal 4:7

It is mandatory, therefore, that we who believe in Christ should live like him, be like him, and function like Christ our Lord. We must not be doubtful, fearful, swayed about by earthly cares. We should always remember that we are offspring of The Word.

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